

REMARKS

Claims 1-29 and 32-42 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 16, 29 and 42 are the independent claims. Claims 1-28 and 42 are allowed. By this Amendment, claims 30 and 31 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 29, 32, 33 and 36-39 are amended. As independent claim 29 is amended only to include allowable subject matter and claims 32-33 and 36-39 are amended only to revise their dependency, no new matter is added that would require additional consideration and/or search.

Allowed/Allowable Subject Matter

The allowance of claims 1-28 and 42 is acknowledged and appreciated. Claims 31-33, 36-39 and 41 are indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form. As independent claim 29 is amended to include the subject matter of allowable claim 31 and intervening claim 30, claims 29, 32-33, 36-39 and 41, are in condition for the reasons discussed below.

Rejections Under 35 USC §102

Claims 29, 30, 34 and 35 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent Application Publication 2002/0192109 to Ting et al. (Ting). As claim 30 is cancelled, the rejection of that claim is moot. The rejection of the remaining rejected claims is respectfully traversed.

As discussed above, independent claim 29 is amended to include the subject matter of allowable claim 31 and intervening claim 30. As pointed out in the Office Action, Ting does not disclose or suggest the features recited in claim 31. Therefore, claims 29, 34 and 35 are not anticipated by Ting. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejection Under 35 USC §103

Claim 40 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ting in view of US Patent 4,543,987 to Ekeleme et al (Ekeleme). As claim 40 depends from independent claim 29, which is allowable for the reasons discussed above, claim 40 is not rendered obvious over the combination of references. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above remarks and amendments, the Applicants respectfully submit that each of the pending objections and rejections has been addressed and overcome, placing the present application in condition for allowance. A notice to that effect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

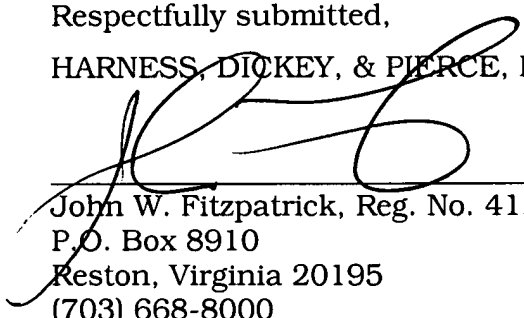
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact John W. Fitzpatrick, Reg. No. 41,018, at the telephone number of the undersigned below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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By



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